

KANSAS HIGHWAY PATROL

Service _ Courtesy _ Protection

Bill Graves
Governor



Col. Donald Brownlee
Superintendent

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KDOT, KHP AND KBI WARN PUBLIC MATERIALS USED TO MAKE METH CAN BE DANGEROUS

In the past few years, Kansas has experienced a tremendous increase in Methamphetamine production. Because of this, more and more, chemicals and containers used in its production are being left along Kansas' roadways. This litter is not only ugly, but it can also be dangerous. What looks like average trash could injure people if touched.

The Kansas Department of Transportation, the Kansas Highway Patrol and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation are working together to increase awareness of the potential hazards of materials used in meth production. The three agencies want to prevent accidental injuries and help law enforcement find and arrest those responsible for making meth.

Colonel Don Brownlee, Superintendent of the Patrol, said the KHP's focus is on the transportation of meth and mobile labs since the drug can be produced in vehicles. "Troopers commonly find methamphetamine and the materials to make the illegal drug in cars traveling down our highways," Colonel Brownlee said. "It's important that we immediately remove these vehicles from the road because of the volatility of some of these chemicals."

Secretary of Transportation E. Dean Carlson said the agency recommends that people always wear gloves and eye protection when removing litter from the roadways. Also, do not shake liquids out of bottles because it may not be water. "KDOT crews and Adopt-A-Highway volunteers do a great job of keeping the highways looking great and our main priority is to keep these people safe while accomplishing this goal," Carlson said.

KBI Director Larry Welch said that unfortunately the incidence of illegal methamphetamine manufacturing continues to rise all across our state. So far this year, more than 350 such manufacturing or disposal sites have been discovered, which is well on the way to exceed last year's record of 702. Much of the hazardous waste generated by these illegal operations is being discarded on public lands and along our highways. "Awareness of this growing problem is the key to citizen safety," Welch said.

Potentially harmful substances such as anhydrous ammonia, acid, sewer cleaner, lye, antifreeze and ethanol are some of the main ingredients used to make meth. After people make meth, they often leave behind some of the disposable materials such as plastic bottles, red chemically stained coffee liners, camping fuel cans, ketchup bottles and, after they've used the lithium from them, battery casings.

Smells similar to ammonia, fingernail polish remover, or cat urine could be a sign of recent meth production. Do not touch any materials or containers found with these odors or any other items that look suspicious. Contact the local law enforcement department immediately or the Kansas Bureau of Investigation at 1-800-KS CRIME.

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